

Weekly Column for July 25, 2007

We're just two days away from the July Troy Night Out, and it will be one exciting night to remember.

Fresh off being named Best Band in the Capital Region by Metroland, Rocky Velvet will play a set in Troy Friday night in support of the revitalization of Barker Park.

The band is scheduled to take the stage at 7 p.m. on State Street between Third and Fourth Streets. As part of the performance, the Friends of Barker Park will unveil its plans for the redesign of the City park at the corner of Third and State Streets.

As you know there are significant changes taking place in that area of the City, and to have Rocky Velvet playing a show for us there really is tremendous. For those that haven't seen the band before, you really ought to make a point to come out Friday and check out the show, it will be a great time.

While we're on the topic, I really want to thank the Friends of Barker Park for its commitment to improving that area. Many of you have seen that within the last few weeks, concrete has been replaced with grass there, and plans continue to unfold to make the park more welcoming and accessible for people around the City. When they unveil the final design Friday, I am sure many people will be impressed.

Groups of dedicated residents and business owners working together to improve public spaces are a wonderful sign of a growing community. This is a group of people across of broad spectrum of professions that have committed themselves to a project, and they deserve our great thanks. Giving your time like that, without seeking any gratitude, is great to see.

But wait, there's more. Just announced, the Albany All-Stars Flat Track Roller Derby team will be making an appearance near City Hall. Yes, you read that correctly. Roller-derby.

Throughout the evening, the Roller girls will be putting on performances to the South of Monument Square, promoting an upcoming exhibition at Northern Lights. What exactly is going to happen, I really do not know. But it sounds like fun, many of the girls are from Troy, and if nothing else, it's something different. We certainly embrace that here.

If you are too busy to come out on Friday night, well, shame on you. But you do get a bit of a reprieve, as Rocky Velvet will be playing Jose Malone's at 10 p.m. on Saturday evening.

A bunch of links for people this week interested in any of the above:

- www.barkerpark.org
- www.troynightout.org
- www.josemalones.com
- www.rockyvelvet.com
- www.albanyallstars.com

Lots to do this weekend, and no excuses to miss any of it.

Have a wonderful time!

Harry J Tutunjian
Mayor of Troy